(c) The Study Group on "Skill Development, Training and Workers Education" set up by the National Commission on Labour has sumbitted its report to the Commission. The Commission is yet to take a view on the report of the Study group in framing its recommendations. The report of the commission is expected by 15.6.2002.

Missing credits of ESIC

5344. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation failed to trace the missing credits of Rs. 33.29 lakhs deposited in the Bank by more than 290 employers of various factories during May, 1988 to June, 1990;

(b) whether the missing credit was tracked sometime in October, 2001 and by then ESIC had suffered a loss of interest amounting to Rs. 45.19 lakhs; and

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has commented on this lapse on the part of the ESIC in his report for the year ending March, 2001 and if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The ESI Corporation while taking action for non-payment of contribution detected the missing credits for the period 5/88 to 7/90. The corporation has been pursuing the matter continuously with State Bank of India authorities because of which Rs. 24.94 lakh (approx.) of the missing credits has already been credited to ESIC Account. The efforts are on by the Corporation to get the remaining amount and interest in terms of the banking arrangement with the State Bank of India. The Director General, Audit (Central Revenue) has commented on the missing credits in his report.

Rate of interest of EPF

†5345. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees has recommended to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

continue with the existing nine and half per cent rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund in its meeting held on 22nd January, 2002 considered the issue of declaration of rate of interest in respect of EPF subscribers for the year 2002-03 and has recommended continuation of 9.5% rate of interest pending further consideration of the matter.

The CBT (EPF) in its special meeting held on 12th Arpil, 2002 has desired that the rate of interest of 9.5% recommended on interim basis in its last meeting should be continued. Recommendation of CBT (EPF) is under Government's consideration.

National policy on Occupational Safety and Health at Work Places

5346. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to formulate a National Policy on Occupational Safety and Health at Work Places;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared a programme to consult concerned trade unions/national centres to have their views before formulating the policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(f) by when a legislation in the matter is likely to be brought before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (f) A Working Group on Occupational Safety and Health was constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Labour) for the Tenth Five Year Plan to review the existing set